

## SHERMAN.

## SHERMAN IN THE HEART OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

## COLUMBIA OURS!

## Occupation of the Capital of South Carolina.

Beauregard Officially Announces that Sherman Reached the City on February 17.

## CHARLESTON IS BEING EVACUATED.

The Rebels Admit that the Occupation of Columbia Necessitates the Fall of Charleston.

It is Presumed that Sherman Will Make Charleston His Base.

Rumored Capture of Augusta, Georgia.

No General Engagement Has Occurred.

REBEL ACCOUNTS OF SHERMAN'S PROGRESS, &c., &c., &c.

## THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Secretary Stanton to Major General Dix.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1865.

Major General Dix, New York.

The announcement of the occupation of Columbia, S. C., by General Sherman, and the probable evacuation of Charleston, has been communicated to the department in the following telegram just received from Lieutenant General Grant.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

General Grant to Secretary Stanton.

CITY POINT, Feb. 18—4:45 P. M.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, War Department:—

The Richmond Dispatch of this morning says Sherman entered Columbia yesterday morning, and its fall necessitates, it presumes, the fall of Charleston, which it thinks is already being evacuated.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

SECOND DESPATCH.

CITY POINT, Va., Feb. 18, 1865.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, War Department:—

The following is taken from to-day's Richmond Dispatch:—

Columbia has fallen! Sherman marched into and took possession of the city yesterday morning. The intelligence was communicated yesterday by General Beauregard in an official despatch.

Columbia is situated on the north bank of the Congaree river, just below the confluence of the Saluda and Broad rivers.

From General Beauregard's despatch it appears that on Thursday evening the enemy approached the south bank of the Congaree and threw a number of shells into the city. During the night they moved up the river, and yesterday morning forded the Saluda and Broad rivers. While they were crossing these rivers our troops, under General Beauregard, evacuated Columbia. The enemy soon after took possession.

Through private sources we learn that two days ago, when it was decided not to attempt the defence of Columbia, a large quantity of medical stores, which it was thought it was impossible to remove, were destroyed.

The female employees of the Treasury Department had been previously sent off to Charlotte, N. C., a hundred miles north of Columbia. We presume the Treasury photographic establishment was also removed, although as to this we have no positive information.

The fall of Columbia necessitates, we presume, the evacuation of Charleston, which we think likely is already in process of evacuation.

It is impossible to say where Sherman will next direct his columns. The general opinion is that he will go to Charleston and establish a base there; but we confess we do not see what need he has of a base. It is to be presumed he is subsisting on the country, and he has had no battle to exhaust his ammunition. Before leaving Savannah he declared his intention to march to Columbia, thence to Augusta, and thence to Charleston. This was uttered as a boast and to hide his designs. We are disgusted to believe that he will next strike at Charleston, which has hundred miles north of Columbia, on the Charlotte and Columbia Railroad, or at Florence, S. C., the junction of the Columbia and Wilmington and the Charleston and Wilmington railroads, some ninety miles east of Columbia.

There was a report yesterday that Augusta had also been taken by the enemy. This we do not believe.

We have reason to feel assured that nearly the whole of Sherman's army is at Columbia, and that the report that Schofield was advancing on Augusta was untrue.

The Richmond Whig says:—

The Charleston Mercury of Saturday announces a brief suspension of that paper, with a view to the temporary removal to another point. This is rendered necessary by the progress of military events, cutting it off from the mail facilities for distributing its paper to a large portion of its subscribers, while the lack of transportation renders the supply of paper precarious.

Sommes has been made a rear admiral, and will take command of the James river squadron.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

## REBEL ACCOUNTS.

The Movement on Columbia.

SHIPPING IN FRONT OF THE CITY ON FEB. 14.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Feb. 16.]

Sherman's movements in South Carolina still draw attention.

It is stated in Columbia that Kilpatrick's corps is retreating from the left.

It is ascertained that Fort Mifflin is again moving on Charleston. When heard from he was at Green Pond.

It is not known where General Sherman himself is. Barwell court house was burned on Monday night.

The roads are teeming with vehicles, stock and all kinds of movable property, fleeing for Georgia and upper Carolina.

Anticipations Which Were Deemed to Disappointment.

[From the Columbia (S. C.) Carolinian, Feb. 12.]

The fact, briefly, are that a portion of the enemy's forces have crossed the South Edisto at Bennet's ferry, and are slowly pushing forward towards the north branch of that river. The probabilities, briefly,

are that this movement is made for the double purpose of cutting the Columbia and Charleston road and Wilmington and Manchester road at one and the same time. But this is looking very far into the distance and over the head of a great many uncertainties.

We have, but little that is substantial in these speculations beyond the general fact that Sherman's main force has turned Branchville, and has probably got as far as Orangeburg, on the Columbia road. The bridge across the Edisto, which was reported to have been burned by our troops in the face of Sherman's advance, is four miles on the east of Midway, and directly on the route to Orangeburg, fifteen miles distant.

It is probable that the movements on the road between Branchville and Augusta are merely those of detachments of cavalry and raiding parties. The main portion of the enemy's army is, undoubtedly, that which has demonstrated upon Branchville. Sherman, adventurous as he is, will hardly attempt the simultaneous capture of Charleston, Augusta and Columbia. But it may be, if he is permitted to hold Branchville, he will determine at his leisure whether to move his main force upon Columbia or Augusta, or to take the third course, and go down to Charleston for a new base of operations.

A Columbia paper of Sunday last says that General Beauregard and staff, consisting of Colonel Otey, Colonel Rice, Captain Beauregard, Captain Ferry and Dr. Brodie, had arrived in that city, and were stopping at Nickerson's Hotel there.

The same paper states that a portion of the enemy's forces have crossed the South Edisto at Bennet's ferry, and are slowly pushing forward towards the north branch of that river; and it thinks that the probabilities are that this movement is made for the double purpose of cutting the Columbia and Charleston road and Wilmington and Manchester road at one and the same time. This, however, is speculation; and the facts are only those which were stated, in another and official form, some days ago.

We learned at a late hour last night that a despatch had been received here in one of the offices of the government stating that the local force in Columbia had been ordered out, and that skirmishing was going on with the enemy in the vicinity of that city. The despatch is dated the 14th inst.

The Cavalry Movement Against Augusta.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE CAVALRY BATTLE AT AIKEN.

[From the Augusta Chronicle, Feb. 16.]

The federals on Thursday morning were at Windsor, about fifteen miles from Aiken. It is not known in what force. No movements were made by them on Thursday. Cause of this not ascertained.

The troops in the vicinity of Windsor are Kilpatrick's corps.

It is reported that Generals Hampton and Wheeler engaged the enemy on the 7th and 8th, repelling them at all points. Our loss about seventy killed, wounded and missing; that of the enemy much greater.

The enemy are reported to be moving towards the Congaree river.

A gentleman from Columbia states that Bloom's corps is moving on that city on this side of the Edisto. His main line, when last heard from, was on the railroad.

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